ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BRITISH COLUMBIA RACING COMMISSION
FOR
1981

HON. L. ALLAN WILLIAMS, Q. C.
Attorney General
of the Province of
British Columbia

R. BRUCE HARVEY, Q. C.
Chairman of the
British Columbia
Racing Commission

MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

ANNUAL REPORT
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FOR
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The Honourable L. Allan Williams, Q. C.
Attorney General
Province of British Columbia

Sir:

The undersigned has the honour to present the Annual Report of the British Columbia Racing Commission for 1981.

R. BRUCE HARVEY, Q. C.
Chairman
British Columbia Racing Commission
Burnaby, B. C.

April 1982

The Racing Commission, during 1981 consisted of:

THE COMMISSIONERS

Chairman
R. Bruce Harvey, Q. C.

Commissioner
Reverend Desmond Kimmitt

Commissioner
J.R.C. (Jack) Short

Commissioner-Secretary
Robert E. Collis

COMMISSION STAFF

Thoroughbred Racing Stewards

W.D.F. Dunn
Joseph L. Horton

Standardbred Racing Judges

Brian M.V. Middleton
John M. Monkman
Edward J. Stewart

Veterinarians

Dr. Alan D. Purvis, D.V.M.
Dr. Gordon Davis, D.V.M.
Dr. David Gaunt, D.V.M.

Office Supervisor
Glenna Ketcheson

Chief Investigator
Wilfred E. Denty

Investigators

Kenneth A.F. Yarker
Gordon K. Simonson
William R. Goodwin
Joseph Shepherd

Licencing Supervisor
Mary-Lou Garrison

Clerk-Typists

Daphne Kreese
Sonja Latta

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BRITISH COLUMBIA RACING COMMISSION

To the Honourable L. Allan Williams, Q. C.
Attorney General, Victoria, B. C.

Sir:

1981 proved to be another excellent year for the sport of horse racing in our province.

The incentives provided by your government's creation of the Horse Racing Improvement Fund are beginning to have a most significant effect in the whole area of breeding and racing in British Columbia. Breeders and owners of both thoroughbred and standardbred horses have responded to the challenge implicit in the Fund. Quality horses have already been bought, imported, and bred, and all indications are that there will be a continuing improvement towards a greater excellence.

At the same time, owners are not only paying higher prices for today's B. C. bred racing stock, they also are buying and importing horses with first class bloodlines. These will race at our tracks, thus enhancing the immediate calibre of the sport. More important, is the long term intention to breed these established bloodlines, when their racing days are done.

This injection of quality by both breeders and owners guarantees an ever increasing importance for British Columbia as a breeding and racing centre. Your Commission confidently looks forward to a time when race horses bred within this province will compete equally, both on our own race tracks and those of the world, with the very best from the long established horse racing provinces, states and countries. However, we emphasize the long term element.

...../2

As you know, your government has given responsibility for the distribution of the monies accruing from the Horse Racing Improvement Fund, to the Commission. This work has demanded our most careful deliberation, working in very constructive co-operation with the Thoroughbred Advisory Committee and the Standardbred Advisory Committee, formed of most knowledgeable individuals from the breeding, owning, and racing segments of the industry. In all such deliberations, the commitment has been toward steady, long range improvement, based on the commitment of funds and resources over an extensive number of years.

It is upon that understanding that the horse racing community of British Columbia has made its own pledge to the future.

Your government's establishment of the Horse Racing Improvement Fund, with its generous rebates to the industry from monies received by the government under the terms of the Pari-Mutuel Betting Tax, was the first step. The imaginative response of the racing community has now occurred. The third element is the continuing commitment by government and the industry over, at least, the next decade.

And, perhaps we may be allowed to add, the Members of your Racing Commission are proud and privileged to have been intimately involved in the establishment of this far-sighted plan for the improvement of the great sport of racing in British Columbia.

During 1981, your Commission continued its ongoing supervision of horse racing in the province. Thoroughbred, Standardbred, and Quarter-horse racing attracted 1,552,167 spectators. These members of the public who are, of course, the ultimate patrons of the sport, wagered $205,421,528.

Purse monies paid to the horsemen were $11,594,260. Your government received revenues of $14,379,506. The money rebated to the Horse Racing Improvement Fund in 1981 totalled $7,189,753.

One measure of the good year achieved by the sport is that the total dollars wagered showed an increase of 19% over 1980.

...../3

The Commission held 28 formal meetings for such purposes as the allocation of racing dates, the making of Rule changes, and the hearing of appeals from the decisions of our Stewards and Judges; as well as reaching our conclusions in the most important matter of the disbursement of the Horse Racing Improvement Fund.

The Members of your Commission continue to have a major role in the deliberations of the Governing Bodies of Canadian Racing; and, although not in attendance in 1981, continue to hold committee assignments with the National Association of State Racing Commissioners.

This invaluable sharing of experience with fellow Commissioners informs us, among other things, that in contrast to the generally good state of affairs in British Columbia, racing is in considerably financial trouble in a large number of jurisdictions, including several provinces.

Presumably, partly in response to these financial needs, Agriculture Canada, whose race track division has been historically primarily involved in supervising pari-mutuel betting in our country, is undertaking a number of initiatives in the area of wagering.

Your own Commission would welcome a greatly strengthened consultation process before the formulation and, certainly, the implementation of such initiatives.

We are specifically apprehensive of any interference by such federal initiatives with the vastly more important continuing effects on the establishment of the Horse Racing Improvement Fund in British Columbia.

In March, 1981, the Commission sponsored a workshop-seminar for racing Officials and other interested persons, at Kamloops. The seminar, presented by the University of Arizona, was attended by two of your Commissioners. It was a reminder of the special needs of our smaller, interior race tracks.

A secondary result of the Horse Racing Improvement Fund has been an increase, not only in the quality, but in the quantity of horses being bred in the province. This naturally suggests the possibility for

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expansion of racing dates for the smaller centres in British Columbia.

It is a matter which will be receiving the close attention of your Commission.

THOROUGHBRED RACING

Exhibition Park, Vancouver, B. C.
(April 13 through October 17, 1981)

The British Columbia Jockey Club presented 108 days of racing at Exhibition Park, and their fans wagered in excess of $138,000,000 which provided purse money to the horse owners of $6,910,556 including the provincial government incentive programs.

1. BRITISH COLUMBIA JOCKEY CLUB

Comparative Statistics for Exhibition Park, 1977 - 81

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
1977	108	89,347,766	827,294	+ 8.0	9,268	+ .3
1978	110	96,301,132	875,465	+ 5.8	9,122	- 1.6
1979	108	106,781,374	988,716	+ 12.9	9,134	+ .1
1980	113	118,145,642	1,045,537	+ 5.7	8,665	- 5.1
1981	108	138,191,286	1,279,549	+ 22.3	9,384	+ 8.3

RULINGS OF THE STEWARDS

There were 146 Rulings issued by the Stewards at Exhibition Park. These Rulings consisted of 80 for personal misconduct; 31 for careless or faulty riding; 9 for falsification of licence applications; 10 for reinstating licencees; 4 for claims determined null and void; 2 rejected

...../5

claims; 2 suspensions pending disposition of criminal charges; and 8 drug related offences.

In the case of the drug related offences, two were for the drug Hydroxyphenylbutazone; one was for the drug Dimethyl Sulfoxide (D.M.S.O.); and five were for the drug Salicylic Acid, all disclosed in post race urine tests. In all cases but one, which was the drug D.M.S.O., the trainers were found responsible and suspended 15 days, or fined between $300 and $500 for failing to properly protect the horse against the administration of any drug which may affect the racing condition or performance, and the horses were disqualified and the purse money redistributed.

In the case of the D.M.S.O. Ruling, it was felt by the Stewards that because of the previous widespread use of the drug, and belief among trainers that the drug would not test positive, that in this instance, the trainer should not be penalized, but that in future this drug would continue to be classified as positive, and trainers suffering positive tests should be disciplined. The horse was however disqualified and the purse money redistributed.

The two Rulings for the drug Hydroxyphenylbutazone were appealed to the Racing Commission and the Commission ruled that the appeals be dismissed and the Rulings of the Stewards be confirmed. The five cases of Salicylic Acid were all appealed to the Commission and the Commission ruled that the appeals be allowed, with Reasons for Judgement published; the order of finish re-established, and the purse money returned.

The Reasons for Judgement from the appeals on Salicylic Acid state, in all cases, that the drug is the only one on the prohibited drug list which occurs naturally in clinically normal horses' urine, but in variable amounts, and that the analysis were qualitative but not quantitative. There was a reasonable doubt as to whether the drug found was above that quantity which could reasonably be expected to be naturally produced.

Following these appeals for Salicylic Acid, when the Official Racing Chemist reported a positive finding of Salicylic Acid within this jurisdiction, he would submit a quantitative analysis to accompany the

...../6

positive test report, indicating the precire measure of Salicylic Acid found in the positive urine sample. The Stewards would react to the positive test report when the quantitative measure was found to be in excess of 200 micrograms per millilitre of urine, which is now the natural production level established and accepted by the Racing Commission.

The Stewards utilized the race video to conclusively confirm or refute suspected and reported rider infractions on a continuous basis and these viewings resulted in the Stewards altering the order of finish in 22 races.

SANDOWN PARK, SIDNEY, B. C.
CAPITAL CITY TURF CLUB
(October 21 through November 22, 1981)
Comparative Statistics for Sandown Park, 1977 - 81

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
1977	19	3,711,847	195,360	- 9.0	2,801	- 15.1
1978	16	2,597,353	162,335	- 16.9	2,209	- 21.1
1979	16	2,276,006	142,250	- 12.4	2,056	- 6.9
1980	15	2,407,031	160,469	+ 12.8	2,144	+ 4.3
1981	20	3,647,643	182,382	+ 13.6	2,146	+ 0.0

3. DESERT PARK, OSOYOOS, B. C.
(June 19, 20 and August 14, 15, 1981)
Comparative Statistics for Osoyoos, 1977 - 81

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
1977	8	121,616	15,202	- 18.1	595	- 31.9
1978	6	108,477	18,080	+ 18.9	469	- 21.2
1979	6	94,311	15,719	- 13.1	420	- 10.4
1980	4	95,266	23,817	+ 51.5	563	+ 34.0
1981	4	92,319	23,080	- 3.0	484	- 14.0

..... /7

4. SAGEBRUSH DOWNS, KAMLOOPS, B. C.

(June 26, 27, 29; July 31; Aug. 1, 3, 28, 29, 31; and Sept. 5, 7, 1981)

Comparative Statistics for Kamloops, 1977 - 81

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
1977	7	239,830	34,261	- 2.2	2,261	+ 76.6
1978	7	254,759	36,394	+ 6.2	791	- 65.0
1979	16	375,587	23,474	- 35.5	696	- 12.0
1980	9	291,504	32,389	+ 38.0	775	+ 11.4
1981	11	398,742	36,249	+ 11.9	867	+ 11.8

5. FAIR GROUNDS, WILLIAMS LAKE, B. C.

(July 3 and 5, 1981)

Comparative Statistics for Williams Lake, B. C. 1977 - 81

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
1977	2	55,212	27,606	+111.8	3,450	+706.0
1978	2	44,247	22,124	- 19.9	1,850	- 46.4
1979	2	49,799	24,900	+ 12.5	1,905	+ 3.0
1980	1	23,589	23,589	- 5.3	2,136	+ 12.1
1981	2	40,854	20,427	- 13.4	895	- 58.0

...../8

6. SUNFLOWER DOWNS, PRINCETON, B. C.

(July 11 and 12, 1981)

Comparative Statistics for Princeton, 1977 - 81

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
1977	2	53,406	26,703	+ 13.6	1,087	+ 3.3
1978	2	55,315	27,658	+ 3.6	2,300	+111.6
1979	2	59,182	29,591	+ 7.0	1,150	- 50.0
1980	2	61,885	30,943	+ 4.6	1,703	+ 48.0
1981	2	72,950	36,475	+ 17.9	1,350	- 20.7

7. KINSMEN PARK, VERNON, B. C.

(July 17, 18, 20, 24, 25, 27, 1981)

Comparative Statistics for Vernon, 1977 - 81

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
1977	3	97,764	32,588	+ 16.3	2,816	+ 54.4
1978	3	108,747	36,249	+ 11.2	2,067	- 26.6
1979	6	185,806	30,968	- 14.6	1,287	- 37.7
1980	6	227,115	37,853	+ 22.2	1,302	+ 1.2
1981	6	276,175	46,029	+ 21.6	2,251	+ 72.9

..... /9

STANDARDBRED RACING

There were a total of 393 Rulings issued by the Judges during the entire standardbred schedule this year, these being for various violations of the Rules and Regulations of Standardbred Horse Racing. Careless and irregular driving practices accounted for 237 of the Rulings; personal misconduct required 32 Rulings; 111 Rulings were for the administration of the course; irregular licencing procedures required 3 Rulings; and 10 Rulings were related to drug offences.

In the case of the drug related offences, 2 Rulings were for the drug Flunixin, in which the trainers were fined $250 with 15 days suspension, and $500 with a 30 day suspension for a second offence; 4 were for the drug Dimethyl Sulfoxide (D.M.S.O.) in which all trainers were fined $300 each; 1 Ruling was for the drug Zomepirac, in which the trainer was fined $500; and 3 Rulings were for the drug Salicylic Acid, in which the trainers were fined $300, $200, and $400, the latter being a second offence. In each case the horses were disqualified and the purse money redistributed.

The three Rulings for Salicylic Acid were all appealed to the Racing Commission and the Commission ruled that the appeals be dismissed and the Ruling of the Judges upheld. These decisions were due to the fact that a quantitative analysis accompanied the positive reports and in each case the measure was found to be in excess of 200 micrograms per millilitre of urine.

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8. ORANGEVILLE RACEWAY LTD.

CLOVERDALE RACEWAY, SURREY, B. C.

(January 1 to April 11 and October 19 to December 31, 1981)

Comparative Statistics for Cloverdale, 1977 - 81

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
1977	107	21,718,493	202,979	+ 36.7	2,124	+ 16.1
1978	120	29,569,889	246,416	+ 21.4	2,313	+ 8.9
1979	120	35,887,853	299,065	+ 21.4	2,508	+ 8.4
1980	120	42,128,560	351,071	+ 17.4	2,653	+ 5.8
1981	120	51,234,027	426,950	+ 21.6	2,875	+ 8.3

9. ORANGEVILLE RACEWAY LTD.

SANDOWN RACEWAY, SIDNEY, B. C.

(May 17 through September 13, 1981)

Comparative Statistics for Sandown Raceway 1978 - 81

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
		$	$			
1978	57	4,599,112	80,686	-	1,308	-
1979	65	6,389,101	98,294	+ 21.8	1,340	+ 2.4
1980	65	7,851,981	120,800	+ 22.9	1,478	+ 10.3
1981	71	11,467,532	161,515	+ 33.7	1,708	+ 15.6

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10. LOWER FRASER VALLEY EXHIBITION ASSOCIATION

CLOVERDALE RACEWAY, SURREY, B. C.

Comparative Statistics for L.F.V.E.A., 1977 - 80

Year	Number of Days	Amount Wagered	Daily Average	Daily Percentage Change	Average Daily Attendance	Daily Percentage Change
1977	3	91,759	30,586	+ 191.0	1,064	+ 10.6
1978	3	152,348	50,783	+ 66.0	1,072	+ .8
1979	-	-	-	-	-	-
1980	7	759,574	108,510	+ 114.0	1,157	+ 7.9
1981	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: 1979 - unable to operate due to new construction.

1981 - unable to operate due to the lack of Totalizator equipment.

REVENUE FROM HORSE-RACING 1981

All personnel employed within the confines of the major race tracks in Vancouver, Surrey, and Sidney, and the owners, trainers, and jockeys at the interior race-meetings are required to be licenced by this Commission.

Assistance is also offered the Consumer Taxation Branch in that the Commission collects the Social Services tax on the sale of horses at the supervised race-meetings.

...../12

To obtain a more clear picture of the revenues received by the Provincial Treasury from the racing industry, the following breakdown is offered:

LICENCE FEES AND FINES
(January to December, 1981)

Occupational	(944 @ $1)	$ 944.00
Owners	(1,716 @ $5)	8,580.00
Trainers	(246 @ $5)	1,230.00
Probationary Trainers	(44 @ $5)	220.00
Jockeys	(45 @ $15)	675.00
Apprentice Jockeys	(15 @ $5)	75.00
Jockey Agents	(15 @ $5)	75.00
Jockey Valets	(11 @ $1)	11.00
Veterinarians	(7 @ $15)	105.00
Blacksmiths	(31 @ $5)	155.00
Tradesmen	(8 @ $15)	120.00
Stable Names	(257 @ $10)	2,570.00
Partnerships	(531 @ $1 per horse)	531.00
Authorized Agents	(618 @ $2)	1,236.00
Colours	($1 for annual; $5 for life)	888.00
Company Registration	(23 @ $25)	575.00
Reissue of lost licences		125.00
Licence Fees from Interior race meets		284.00
Licence Fees from Sandown Park (thoroughbred)		213.00
Licence Fees from Cloverdale Raceway		1,156.00
Licence Fees from Sandown Raceway (harness)		1,338.00
Fines		24,665.00
	TOTAL	$45,771.00
4 per cent Social Services tax collected by Commission on bills of sale at Exhibition Park, Sandown Park (thoroughbred) and Interior Circuit (6 per cent from March 10, 1981)		10,530.76
4 per cent Social Services tax on horses claimed at Exhibition Park and Sandown Park (thoroughbred) (6 per cent from March 10, 1981)		166,599.00
4 per cent Social Services tax on horses claimed at Cloverdale Raceway and Sandown Raceway (harness) (6 per cent from March 10, 1981)		13,030.50
Pari-Mutuel Betting Tax		14,379,506.00
	TOTAL	14,615,437.26

All of which is respectfully submitted.

BRITISH COLUMBIA RACING COMMISSION

R. Bruce Harvey, Q.C., Chairman

Desmond Kimmitt, Commissioner

Robert E. Collis, Commissioner-Secretary

Jack Short, Commissioner